

## CLAIMS

1. A method for collecting information on a specification for a computer program, comprising the operations of:

providing a plurality of classes, each class capable of performing a particular task  
5 related to obtaining information from a specification;

receiving a command from a user, the command requesting a particular task to be performed;

selecting a class from the plurality of classes based on the task requested by the received command; and

10 running the selected class, whereby information on the specification is obtained.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of classes includes a get assertion class that obtains assertions from the specification.

15 3. A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising the operation of obtaining a list of assertions from the specification using the get assertion class.

4. A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising the operation of determining whether each assertion in the list of assertions is a valid assertion.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of classes includes a reporting class that provides information on test coverage of the specification.

5 6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the information on test coverage of the specification comprises a list of assertions that are tested by specification tests.

7. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the information on test coverage of the specification comprises a percentage of the assertions obtained from the specification that are tested by specification tests.

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8. A computer program for obtaining assertions from a specification for a computer program, comprising:

a code segment that receives an input specification for a computer program;

15 a code segment that identifies a context within the input specification;

a code segment that parses the identified context to obtain assertions; and

a code segment that adds the obtained assertions to an assertion result set, wherein the assertion result set can be used to facilitate testing of the specification.

9. A computer program as recited in claim 8, further comprising a code segment that filters the identified context prior to parsing the context.

10. A computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein an assertion is a  
5 testable statement within the specification.

11. A computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein an assertion is an implied statement that can be tested.

10 12. A computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein the context is a set of circumstances related to the obtained assertions.

13. A computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein each assertion comprises at least one sentence of the specification.

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14. A computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein each assertion can comprises at least two sentences of the specification.

15. A computer program for collecting information on a specification of a computer program, comprising:

a plurality of classes, wherein each class is capable of performing a particular task related to obtaining information from a specification;

5 a code segment that receives a command from a user, the command requesting a particular task to be performed;

a code segment that selects a class from the plurality of classes based on the task requested by the received command; and

10 a code segment that runs the selected class, whereby information on the specification is obtained.

16. A computer program as recited in claim 15, wherein the plurality of classes includes a get assertion class that obtains assertions from the specification.

15 17. A computer program as recited in claim 16, wherein the get assertion class includes a method call that obtains a list of assertions from the specification using the get assertion class.

18. A computer program as recited in claim 15, wherein the plurality of classes includes a reporting class that provides information on test coverage of the specification.

5 19. A computer program as recited in claim 18, wherein the information on test coverage comprises a list of assertions that are tested by specification tests.

10 20. A computer program as recited in claim 18, wherein the information on test coverage comprises a percentage of the assertions obtained from the specification that are tested by specification tests.